

the family's finances. After attending a church youth retreat, he worked to overcome some of his own poor personal choices and become a model of integrity for others.

Josh Teetsel, Lucas High School—Placed in a foster home after the death of his mother, Josh struggled to make the right choices in the face of pressure from friends. He has since turned his life around, earning the respect of his teachers and volunteering at the local fire department. Josh will soon enroll at Ohio's Hocking College.

Joseph (Joey) Bennett, Madison Comprehensive High School—Coping with hearing and vision impairments and enduring several open-heart surgeries before age 2, Joey is an inspiration to everyone at his school, where he is an eager volunteer at sporting and other extracurricular activities. He recently completed Madison's auto tech training program.

Ian Kent, Mansfield Christian High School—Various sleep disorders and other medical problems have slowed Ian's academic work, but he continues to persevere in his home studies. He enjoys volunteering at his church and at Mansfield's Kingwood Center, and looks forward to attending North Central State College.

Leona Smith, Mansfield Senior High School—In just the last year, Leona has suffered from three collapsed lungs requiring surgery. Despite these setbacks, she has maintained a 3.6 grade point average in college prep courses and is on course to graduate a year early—all while working two jobs to support herself financially.

Brandon O'Brian, Ontario High School—Brandon's positive attitude in working to overcome a cognitive disability is a model for his fellow students. In addition to his studies at Pioneer Career and Technology Center, he is an active member of the Mansfield Police Department's Explorer Post and works part-time at Ontario's Skyway Restaurant.

#### HONORING TRAVIS HOGLE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Travis Hogle a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Travis has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Travis has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Travis Hogle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING CRAY HENRY AS A 2009 SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDAL FINALIST

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions of Cray Henry, of Annandale, Va., to our nation and specifically to improving the safety of our deployed military personnel. Mr. Henry, as director of the High Performance Computing Modernization Program, led the effort to provide supercomputer support allowing the Department of Defense to improve body and vehicle armor for troops in the field. The work of his team also helped enhance overall military performance and saved billions of taxpayer dollars. In recognition of those achievements, Mr. Henry and his team have been named finalists for the 2009 Service to America Medal for National Security and International Affairs.

As my colleagues know, the Service to America Medals, or Sammys as they are more commonly known, are presented annually by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service to celebrate our dedicated federal workforce, highlighting their commitment and innovation, as well as the impact of their work on addressing the needs of the nation.

The state-of-the-art supercomputing environment created by the High Performance Computing Modernization Program team, led by Mr. Henry, enabled DoD scientists and engineers to design and test innovative materials and weapons systems.

For example, the team helped speed the development and rapid deployment of the Hellfire missile that has been used to neutralize terrorists in buildings, bunkers and caves.

The team also was tapped to help the soldiers in Iraq, providing resources for complex modeling and simulations to develop new armor kits for Humvees to better adapt and protect against improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that were killing and wounding American soldiers.

In addition to its field applications, the supercomputing team has brought advances in weather forecasting to allow the U.S. Navy and Air Force to provide more accurate, up-to-the-minute and long-range information to ground forces anywhere in the world, which is a great asset in helping commanders plan military operations. Applying this capability to aircraft flight planning, the DoD anticipates saving \$1 billion in fuel costs over 10 years.

The DoD's hurricane prediction models are so accurate that the National Hurricane Center is now using them together with other models to predict hurricane paths. The team's modeling also has been a tremendous resource in rebuilding the levees in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Henry and his team for their tremendous contribution to protecting our troops and improving our national preparedness. His 27 years of public service and his drive for innovation serve as an example to us all, and his recognition as finalists for the 2009 Service to America Medal for Homeland Security is well deserved.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

#### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the more than 40,000 teachers from Broward and Miami-Dade Counties during National Teacher Appreciation Week, taking place this year from May 3 through May 9, 2009.

This week all across America, our Nation's schoolchildren, their parents, PTAs and others are gathering to show their appreciation for the professional educators who work every day to make their futures brighter. Teacher Appreciation Week is a great opportunity to stop and pay tribute to the profession that shapes the world of tomorrow. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the lasting contributions that these men and women make to the lives of thousands of students in South Florida.

Today, I am pleased to commend the efforts of two special teachers in my district: Tony Dutra, a reading teacher from the Hallandale Community Center in Hallandale, Florida, teaches Extraordinary Student Education. When he was a student Mr. Dutra was learning disabled so he understands the challenges his student go through on a daily basis. Mr. Dutra was named Broward County's public school teacher of the year.

Patricia Fairclough, a second grade teacher from Airbase Elementary School in Homestead, Florida, was Miami-Dade County's public school teacher of the year. As a first-grader, Patricia struggled in class, but she was inspired by a caring teacher and now she is helping other children who need a little extra tough love.

I hope that you will all join me in thanking Mr. Dutra and Ms. Fairclough and all of our nation's teachers for everything they do each and every day to encourage, instruct and guide our students. All of America's teachers deserve more than a week of recognition for their investment in our country's most precious resource, our children.

Too often teachers are overworked and underpaid. They spend long hours in the classroom, many hours after the school day coaching our kids and leading their extracurricular groups, and then go home to spend more time grading papers.

Teachers invest their own lives in the lives of our children, and every day they empower young people with the knowledge and tools needed to be successful and confident. America's future is in the hands of our children and we owe our teachers a universe of thanks for their hard work.

#### ELIZABETH PORRAS

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Elizabeth Porras who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Elizabeth Porras is a senior at Jefferson High